

# Categorical Exclusion Determination

Bonneville Power Administration  
Department of Energy



**Proposed Action:** Eagle Lake Substation Sale Project

**Project Manager:** Eric Carter – TSE-TPP-2; Jay Largo – TPCV-TPP-4

**Location:** Franklin County, Washington

**Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021):** B1.24 Property Transfers

**Description of the Proposed Action:** Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) proposes to sell about 0.27 acre of fee-owned land comprising the BPA Eagle Lake Substation to Big Bend Electric Cooperative, Inc. (BBEC).

The sale of the substation would satisfy the provisions of BPA's 1996 Policy for Sale or Lease of Delivery Facilities, which gives BPA customers the right, upon request, to purchase or lease low voltage substations that are used to deliver power to the requesting customer or customers. The Eagle Lake Substation meets the terms of this Policy, as it delivers power to the BBEC.

BPA would sell nearly all substation assets, including but not limited to: indoor equipment including switchboard panel and station battery with charger; outdoor equipment including grounding, transformers, cable and wires, fuse mounts, surge arresters, bus work, jumpers, transformers, disconnect switches, substation control equipment, fencing, control house, concrete foundations, sewer system, parking, roads and bridges. BPA would retain certain indoor equipment associated with metering and the steel lattice transmission line support structure located within the chain link fence.

The substation is being sold to BBEC in as-is condition, and the results of the remediation effort have been shared with BBEC prior to the sale's completion.

**Findings:** In accordance with Section 1021.410(b) of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, Jul. 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011), BPA has determined that the proposed action:

- (1) fits within a class of actions listed in Appendix B of 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D (see attached Environmental Checklist);
- (2) does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal; and
- (3) has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion.

Based on these determinations, BPA finds that the proposed action is categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

/s/ Becky Hill

Becky Hill  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Reviewed by:

/s/ David K. Kennedy for

Carol Leiter

Supervisory Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Katey Grange

Katey Grange

NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: December 17, 2019

Attachment(s): Environmental Checklist

# Categorical Exclusion Environmental Checklist

This checklist documents environmental considerations for the proposed project and explains why the project would not have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources and would meet other integral elements of the applied categorical exclusion.

**Proposed Action:** Eagle Lake Substation Sale Project

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## Project Site Description

The Eagle Lake Substation is located on BPA fee-owned land within Section 21, Township 14 North, Range 29 East; Willamette Meridian, in Franklin County, Washington. It is about 0.27 acre in size and is situated on a flat plateau, with steep canyons surrounding the plateau on all sides. The climate is generally arid, and the surrounding areas are dominated by irrigated crop circles, and very few residences nearby. Irrigation canals wind through the area, including the Wahluke Branch Canal, located approximately 0.75 mile to the north of the substation. Various small reservoirs are also scattered throughout the general area, and the Columbia River is located about 10 miles west of the substation.

## Evaluation of Potential Impacts to Environmental Resources

| Environmental Resource Impacts   | No Potential for Significance       | No Potential for Significance, with Conditions |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. <b>Historic and Cultural Resources</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> BPA acquired the property, designed and constructed the Eagle Lake Substation in 1958. BPA initiated Section 106 consultation on July 21, 2016 with the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Department of Archaeology &amp; Historic Preservation (DAHP). A BPA archaeologist performed surveys, and the BPA historian evaluated the substation and the proposed sale to a non-federal entity.</p> <p>A determination of effect letter was submitted on May 2, 2018 to the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the DAHP. The letters indicated that the sale of the eligible Eagle Lake Substation would be an adverse effect per 800.5.2.vii of the National Historic Preservation Act, and BPA notified the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. DAHP concurred with BPA's determination on May 7, 2018.</p> <p>Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.6 of the NHPA, a Memorandum of Agreement was developed between BPA and DAHP and signed on September 5, 2019 titled <i>Memorandum of Agreement between Bonneville Power Administration and the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Sale of the Eagle Lake Substation in Franklin County, Washington</i>. It described BPA's specific mitigation measures, that when implemented, will serve to mitigate the adverse effect on the property.</p> |                                     |  |
| 2. <b>Geology and Soils</b>  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>                       |
| <p><u>Explanation:</u> In preparation of the proposed sale, Phase I and limited Phase II Environmental Assessments were performed by a BBEC contractor, and the results indicated that there were two sites near the transformer that had above acceptable levels of mineral oil in the soil per the Washington Department of Ecology Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA). On July 23, 2019, BPA excavated to a depth of 6 feet to remove the contaminated soil. At that depth, it was determined that removal of additional material from the excavation area could jeopardize the stability of the transformer and its footing. Using the MTCA Method C guidance for the Eagle Lake Substation, final soil sampling results indicated that the remaining contaminated soil onsite was within acceptable regulatory standards for properties of similar use. No further soil excavation is anticipated.</p>   |                                     |  |

3. **Plants** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to plants. There are no federally listed plants at this location.

4. **Wildlife** (including Federal/state special-status species and habitats)



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed or project activities that would create noise that would disturb wildlife or remove wildlife habitat. Therefore, there would be no impacts to wildlife.

5. **Water Bodies, Floodplains, and Fish** (including Federal/state special-status species, ESUs, and habitats)



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to water bodies, floodplains, or fish.

6. **Wetlands**



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed; therefore, there would be no impacts to wetlands.

7. **Groundwater and Aquifers**



Explanation: The remaining mineral oil present in the soil does not appear to pose a threat to groundwater quality via the leaching or residual saturation pathways. No impact to groundwater and aquifers.

8. **Land Use and Specially-Designated Areas**



Explanation: No ground disturbance is proposed and the substation would still be used as a substation after the sale to BBEC. There are no specially-designated areas at the substation. Therefore, there would be no impacts to land use and specially-designated areas.

9. **Visual Quality**



Explanation: No ground disturbance or change to the substation is proposed with the sale of this substation; therefore, there would be no impacts to visual quality.

10. **Air Quality**



Explanation: No ground disturbance or vehicle emissions are proposed with the sale of this substation; therefore, there would be no impacts to air quality.

11. **Noise**



Explanation: No ground disturbance or onsite project activities are proposed with the sale of this substation; therefore, there would be no impacts to noise.

12. **Human Health and Safety**



Explanation: There would be no impacts to human health and safety due to the remediation efforts implemented on July 23, 2019 that removed contamination to a level below the MTCA method C direct contact cleanup level.

### **Evaluation of Other Integral Elements**

The proposed project would also meet conditions that are integral elements of the categorical exclusion. The project would not:

- Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators) that are not otherwise categorically excluded.

Explanation, if necessary:

- Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases.

Explanation, if necessary: There would be no disturbance to hazardous substances (i.e. mineral oil) remaining in the soil after the successful remediation efforts that were implemented on July 23, 2019; no uncontrolled or unpermitted hazardous substances released.

- Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those of the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Institutes of Health.

Explanation, if necessary:

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### **Landowner Notification, Involvement, or Coordination**

Description: BPA has been coordinating with BBEC, South Columbia Basin Irrigation District, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

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Based on the foregoing, this proposed project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts to any environmentally sensitive resource.

Signed: /s/ Becky Hill  
Becky Hill, ECT-4  
Contract Environmental Protection Specialist  
Flux Resources, LLC

Date: December 17, 2019